Sponsored Schemes for employment generation for people living in rural areas of the country. The programmes are Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) for self employment, Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) for wage employment.

To provide more self employment opportunities to the BPL families, including handloom workers the SGSY is already being implemented in all the districts of the country which covers all aspects of self employment such as organization of poor in self help groups and their capacity building training, selection of activities, technology and marketing support etc. Similarly for willing rural households including agricultural workers, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) 2005 is presently being implemented in 330 districts of the country and would be extended to the remaining districts *w.e.f.* 1st April, 2008. The objective of NREGA is to ensure that local employment is provided to every willing rural household for at least 100 days in a financial year and the process of employment generation is used for building durable asserts, strengthening of livelihood resource based of rural poor.

Closure of Swajaldhara Programme

1360. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL:
SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:
SHRI SURENDRA MOTILAL PATEL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to close Swajaldhara Programme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for meeting the needs of village level committees who have already deposited community contribution for the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) The principles of Swajaldhara have been incorporated under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). The decision on quantum of funds to be used on rural water supply schemes based on Swajaldhara principles and also the share of community contribution has been left to the discretion of the respective States. The funding pattern under the scheme is 50:50 between the Centre and the State. The States can institutionalize and encourage community contribution as per local conditions as percentage component of their share. This change has been made on the recommendations made in the review conference of the State Ministers held in January, 2006. The State Governments have been requested to take up all such schemes for which community contribution has already been deposited under ARWSP on priority basis.

Taking out rural connectivity works from NREGA

1361. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government propose to take out rural connectivity from the list of recommended types of work under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total length of rural connectivity provided under the NREGA since its inception; and

(d) the total expenditure involved under this type of work under the NREGA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir. Rural connectivity to provide all-weather access is a permissible activity under NREGA. There is no proposal under consideration of the Central Government to take out this activity from the list of recommended types of works under NREGA.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Total length of rural connectivity provided under NREGA and the total expenditure incurred during the years 2006-07 and 2007-08 (up to January, 2008) is as under:

Year	Total works taken up under rural connectivity	Rural connectivity created	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in crores)
2006-07	179681	2.37 lakh kms.	1769.08
2007-08	234340	3.09 lakh kms.	1838.46

Safe drinking water and sanitation facilities in schools

1362. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre proposes to provide safe drinking water and sanitation facilities in schools in the country by 2009;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the status of Orissa in this sector; and

(d) what is the time-frame within which all the schools in Orissa would be covered under the above project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Water is a State subject and State Governments are responsible to provide drinking water to the rural areas. To supplement the efforts of the State, financial assistance is provided to the States through Centrally sponsored, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). The State Governments are competent to plan, sanction and implement rural water supply schemes from the funds provided under ARWSP. New schools in rural areas are covered under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Ministry of Human Resource Development. States have been impressed upon to cover all the schools by the end of 2007-08 with drinking water and sanitation facilities.

Regarding sanitation facilities, as part of the "Total Sanitation Campaign", proposals for construction of toilets in all rural schools have been approved for 582 districts. The proposal nvisages to provide at least one unit each for each of the schools and separate toilets for oys and girls in co-educational schools. So far 5,25,625 school toilet units have been nstructed.